

File No: 24530-008/MXM

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Yikihiro HANAOKA                      Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Serial No.: To be assigned                      Examiner: To be assigned

National Phase of  
PCT/JP2003/012068,  
filed September 22, 2003

Filed: Herewith – March 18, 2005

For: **STOCKER APPARATUS**

---

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows: